



# Department Updates

August / September 2022

## Child Support Agency

**Lynette Metcalf, Program Manager**

August is Child Support Awareness month. The Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA), Oneida Nation Tribal Child Support Program and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families are hosting a virtual food drive throughout August to raise funds to combat child hunger in honor of the Child Support Awareness Month. Donations can be made at <https://secure.everyaction.com/h6E6UXXSyEm5UwhWuqe6iQ2>. The Barron County Child Support Agency will be putting together 'care packages' for children removed from their homes and providing them to the Department of Health and Human Services for distribution.

Our agency is encountering staffing changes. Vickie Hebard is retiring on September 30 after 19 years of service to Barron County. Congratulations and happy retirement to Vickie. Rebecca (Becky) Clausen will be starting on August 15<sup>th</sup> as the Legal Secretary. Welcome aboard Becky. Janelle Karpowicz is being promoted from Fiscal Specialist to Child Support Specialist on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations Janelle.

Child Support funding is based on performance guideline categories of Court Order Establishment, Paternity Establishment, Current Child Support Collections, and Arrears Collections. The graph below represents a comparison of the Barron County Child Support Agency current performance with the State of Wisconsin's FFY Target goal and the State of Wisconsin's FFY 2022 (statewide average) performance.

|                           | Barron County as of<br>July 31, 2022 | Wisconsin Target<br>Rate<br>at FFY End | Wisconsin FFY 2022<br>as of July 31, 2022 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Court Order Establishment | 91.87%                               | 80%                                    | 85.00%                                    |
| Paternity Establishment   | 108.00%                              | 90%                                    | 96.15%                                    |
| Current Child Support     | 76.72%                               | 80%                                    | 73.56%                                    |
| Arrears Collection        | 72.41%                               | 80%                                    | 66.42%                                    |

The Barron County Child Support Agency was able to collect a total of \$1,550,639.43 from May 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022 to support our client's families.

The Barron County Child Support website (<https://www.barroncountywi.gov/departments>) is an excellent resource for clients to utilize. The website provides access to forms and helpful information such as applying for services, checking payment information, child support calculator, payment options, direct deposit form, job search form, medical documentation form, Motion to Change document, Stipulation and Order to Change document, and payment coupon access.

The Child Support window remains open to the public from 8:00am-4:30pm. Our staff continues rotating time in the office and working remotely. Child Support clients are strongly encouraged to call (715) 537-6390 and leave a voicemail or email our agency at [childsupport@co.barron.wi.us](mailto:childsupport@co.barron.wi.us) to set up an appointment with their caseworker to ensure availability.

## Forestry

The Variable Sale in Bear Lake Township is proceeding.

Site preparation was completed on the Owen Anderson Rifle Range and in the Silver Creek Compartment. These areas were impacted by the tornado / windstorm in 2017. The areas are scheduled to be replanted in the spring of 2023.

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## **Finance**

### **Jodi Busch Finance Director**

Summer has flown by in the Finance Department. We worked with CliftonlarsenAllen to finalize the 2021 audit, which was submitted to the State of WI – Dept of Administration on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We also worked with Diversified Services Network, who was onsite for two days conducting the Indirect Cost Allocation Study. This plan was finalized in late July.

Ongoing projects in Finance over the summer included the handling of the accounts payable and the general accounting for the new Highway Facility, as well as the general accounting for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Barron County received the second tranche of ARPA dollars in early June. To date, several ARPA projects are in the works ranging from the planning stages all the way to completion.

July also brought the start of the annual budget process. Budget Worksheets were distributed to departments the week of July 11<sup>th</sup> and were due back to Finance on August 12<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to all of the departments for submitting by the deadline! Compilation of the first draft of the county-wide budget has been occurring over the last few weeks. Committee meetings are well underway to review and approve the departmental budgets. The first view of the budget as a whole will be in September at the Executive and County Board meetings.

Because some budget information is still outstanding, September continues to be a busy month making adjustments and tweaks before the October Executive, when the Committee will give a recommendation to the County Board. Based on that recommendation, a Budget Publication will be developed and published in all County newspapers. A Public Hearing will be held on November 7th, with the County Board approving the budget in early November.

After approval, the Finance Director will finalize the budget, file the appropriate reports with the municipalities and the State, and setup the budget in the financial software. About the time this process is completed, the auditors will be here again as they start the 2022 pre-audit in December.

All of us in the Finance Department wish you a healthy, happy and colorful fall season.